



News Release from Congressman
ROB SIMMONS

SECOND DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

WWW.HOUSE.GOV/SIMMONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, JULY 24, 2006

CONTACT: JOHN GOODWIN
202/812-1341

HOUSE APPROVES SIMMONS RESOLUTION HONORING NAT'L ASSOCIATION OF STATE VETERANS HOMES

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The House of Representatives today unanimously approved H.Con.Res. 347, a resolution to honor the National Association of State Veterans Homes (NASVH) and the 119 State veterans homes they represent for their contributions to caring for our Nation's military veterans.

Authored by Rep. Rob Simmons, R-2nd District, the bill would recognize those who work in state veterans homes across the nation, commending their contributions to the care of elderly and disabled veterans. The resolution also acknowledges the partnership between VA and the states and affirms the support of Congress in the continuation of this program.

"The State Veterans Home program is a partnership between the federal government and the States that provides the bulk of VA-supported long term care services to veterans and their families," Simmons said. "Approval of H.Con.Res. 347 puts Congress on record in support of this invaluable partnership."

The National Association of State Veterans Homes was established in 1954 as an all-volunteer, non-profit organization of the administrators and senior staffs of 119 State-operated veterans homes in 47 States and Puerto Rico. These homes provide nursing home care in 114 locations, domiciliary care in 52 locations, and hospital-type care in five of their homes.

Combined, the State homes presently provide over 27,500 resident beds for veterans, of which more than 21,000 are nursing home beds. NASVH has been and continues to be in the forefront of developing and supporting new methods and models for providing long term care services to elderly veterans, such as hospice care, respite care, Alzheimer's care, and adult day health care.

Since coming to Congress, Rob Simmons has been a leader in Congress in support of state veterans homes. Last month, he announced a nearly \$22 million grant for the Connecticut Veterans' Home at Rocky Hill. This federal funding will help construct a new state veterans care facility and to make infrastructure improvements at the Rocky Hill campus.

Simmons concluded, "In 1864, the state of Connecticut established the Rocky Hill Veterans' Home for wounded and homeless Union soldiers. At the time, it represented one of the nation's earliest commitments to our veterans. Almost 150 years later, Congress is recognizing the importance of State Veterans Homes for their role in caring for our Nation's aging and disabled military heroes."

###